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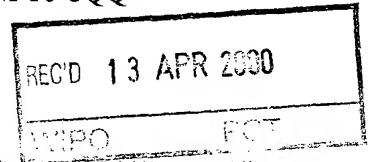


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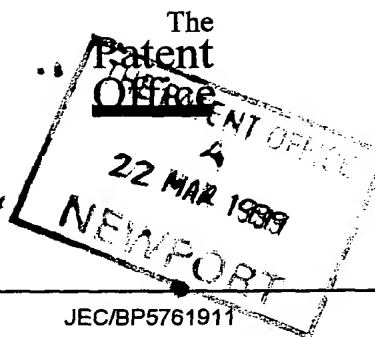
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4. Title of the invention

MATERIALS AND METHODS RELATING TO THE EFFECTS OF P66
EXPRESSION5. Name of your agent *(if you have one)*

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DUPLICATE

MATERIALS AND METHODS RELATING TO EFFECTS OF p66
EXPRESSION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to materials and
methods concerned with the effects of p66 expression.
Particularly, but not exclusively, the present invention
provides materials and methods relating to observations
that p66, and more particularly p66 Shc isoform, is part
10 of a signal transduction pathway that regulates stress
response, response to oncogenic signals and lifespan in
mammals.

Background of the Invention

15 The genes that are responsible for the phenomenon of
aging in mammals are unknown. Current theories postulate
that aging is the consequence of mutations which do not
affect fitness of adult individuals, and which have
deleterious effects later in life. Circumstantial
20 evidence suggest genes involved in the control of the
oxidative stress response are candidate "aging genes".
Indeed, accumulation of oxidative damage correlates with
aging.

 The mammalian SHC locus encodes three isoforms: p52,
25 p46 and p66. They differ by the presence of N-terminal
sequences of variable length and share a C-terminal SH2
domain, a central collagen-homology domain (CH1), rich in
proline/glycine residues, and an N-terminal
phosphotyrosine-binding domain (PTB). The 110 amino acid
30 N-terminal region unique to p66 is also rich in glycine
and proline residues (CH2) (Fig.1A). Therefore, p66^{shc} is
a splice variant of p52^{shc}/p46^{shc} (Migliaccio E. et al Embo
J. 16, 706-716 (1997), a cytoplasmic signal transducer
involved in the transmission of mitogenic signals from
35 tyrosine kinases to Ras (Pelicci G. et al Cell 70, 93-104

(1992)). The p52/46 Shc isoforms are involved in the cytoplasmic propagation of mitogenic signals from activated receptors to Ras (Bonfini L. et al Tibs 21, 257-261; 1996). They are rapidly phosphorylated on tyrosine after ligand stimulation of receptors and, upon phosphorylation, form stable complexes with activated receptors and Grb2, an adaptor protein for the Ras guanine nucleotide exchange factor SOS (Migliaccio E. et al Embo J. 16, 706-716 (1997); Pelicci G. et al Cell 70, 93-104 (1992); Rozakis-Adcock, M. et al Nature 360, 689-692 (1992)). These complexes induce Ras activation, as measured by increased RasGTP formation, Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase (MAPK) activity and FOS activation in cultured cells overexpressing p52^{shc}/p46^{shc} (Migliaccio, E. et al Embo J. 16, 706-716 (1997); Pronk, G. et al Mol.Cell. Biol. 14, 1575-1581 (1994); Lanfrancone, L. et al Oncogene 10, 907-917 (1995)). Likewise, p66^{shc} becomes tyrosine-phosphorylated upon receptor activation and forms stable complexes with activated receptors and Grb2. However, it inhibits c-fos promoter activation and does not affect MAPK activity, thereby suggesting that p66^{shc} acts in a distinct intracellular signalling pathway (Migliaccio E. et al Embo J. 16, 706-716 (1997)).

c-fos is transcriptionally activated in response to a large variety of adverse agents (environmental stress), such as DNA-damaging agents (e.g. ultraviolet radiation, UV) or agents that induce oxidative damage (e.g. hydrogen peroxide, H₂O₂) (Schreiber, M. et al Embo J. 14, 5338-5349 (1995); Sen, C. et al FASEB J. 10, 709-720 (1996)).

It is postulated that the major causal factor of aging is the accumulation of oxidative damage as an organism ages (Martin, G. M. et al Nature Genetics 13, 25-34 (1996); Johnson, F.B. et al Cell 96, 291-302 (1999); Lithgow G. J. et al Science 273, 80 (1996)).

Indeed, transgenic flies that overexpress antioxidative

enzymes have greater longevity (Orr W. C. et al Science 263, 1128-1130 (1994)); restriction of caloric intake lowers steady state levels of oxidative stress and damage and extends the maximum life span in mammals (Sohal R.S. et al Science 273, 59-63 (1996)). However, the genes that determine lifespan in mammals are not known. Among currently accepted evolutionary theories, it is postulated that aging is a post-reproductive process that has escaped the force of natural selection and that evolved through selection of alleles with early life benefits combined with pleiotropically harmful effects later in life. The postulated genes, since actively selected, are, therefore thought to regulate fundamental cellular processes, common to different species.

Summary of the Invention

The present inventors have determined that p66 is a pivotal gene in the regulation of the cellular responses to environmental and oncogenic stresses and that it is involved in the process of aging and in tumour suppression. p66 provides the first genetic information on the theory of aging. Mechanistically, p66 exerts its functions downstream to stress-activated serine kinases and upstream to p53-p21.

The present inventors have determined that targeted mutation of the mouse p66^{shc} gene induces stress resistance and prolongs survival. The present inventors disclose herein that i) p66^{shc} is serine phosphorylated upon UV treatment or oxidative damage; ii) the serine-phosphorylation of p66 by oxidative signals is mediated by Erk1 and p38, as shown both in vivo and in vitro; iii) ablation of p66^{shc} expression by homologous recombination enhances resistance to oxidative damage both in vitro and in vivo; iv) a serine-phosphorylation defective mutant of p66^{shc} is unable to restore a normal stress response in

p66^{shc} targeted cells; v) mice carrying the p66^{shc} targeted mutation have prolonged lifespan.

Furthermore, the present inventors have determined that targeted mutation of the mouse p66^{shc} gene increases susceptibility to tumour formation. The present inventors disclose herein that i) p16, p53 and p21 activation is lost in p66^{-/-} cells upon H₂O₂ or UV treatment or RASV12 expression; ii) the oncogenic RASV12 is unable to induce cell senescence into p66^{-/-} MEFs and, on the contrary, it transforms p66^{-/-} cells; iii) p66^{-/-} MEFs over-expressing RASV12 show a transformed, spindle-shaped morphology, are capable of forming foci at confluency and colonies in semisolid media; iv) p16 and p53 are unable to induce growth proliferation of p66^{-/-} cells; v) p66^{-/-} mice are more susceptible to chemically-induced carcinogenesis than littermates.

Thus, the present inventors show herein that p66 itself is activated by serine phosphorylation by stress activated kinases and signals to p16-p19-p53-p21 and that functionally, the p66 signalling pathway regulates tumour suppression and lifespan.

Therefore, at its most general, the present invention provides materials and methods associated with the modulation of p66^{shc} gene expression and its involvement in a signal transduction pathway that is activated by environmental stresses and oncogenic mutations.

In a first aspect, the present invention provides a nucleic acid molecule comprising a p66^{shc} coding sequence incorporating at least one mutation as compared to the wild type sequence or the sequence as shown in Fig. 5 such that the protein encoded by the coding sequence has at least one serine residue absent or replaced by a different amino acid residue. Preferably, the serine residue is selected from the group consisting of S17,

S19, S20, S26, S28, S36, S38, S40, S41, S54, S60, S66, S80, S120 and even more preferably selected from the group consisting of S28, S36 and S54. Even more preferably, the serine residue is replaced by a different amino acid residue, for example S36 is replaced by alanine (p66^{shc}S36A).

The nucleic acid of the present invention may comprises a p66^{shc} coding sequence which differs further from the wild type sequence or the sequence as shown in Fig. 5 in that it is a nucleic acid sequence that is an allele, mutant, variant or derivative, by way of nucleotide addition, insertion, substitution or deletion of the wild type sequence as illustrated in Fig. 5.

Systematic or random mutagenesis of nucleic acid to make an alteration to the nucleotide sequence may be performed using any technique known to those skilled in the art. In various embodiments of the present invention, a nucleic acid sequence that is a fragment, mutant, allele, derivative or variant, by way of addition, insertion or substitution or more or more nucleotides, of the p66^{shc} wild type sequence as illustrated in Fig. 5, has at least 60% homology, preferably at least 70% homology, more preferably at least 80% homology, more preferably at least 90% homology and even more preferably at least 95% homology.

The present invention further provides a polypeptide encoded for by the nucleic acid molecule of the present invention as disclosed above. A preferred polypeptide comprises the p66^{shc} amino acid sequence or fragment thereof having at least one serine residue present in the wild type p66^{shc} sequence absent or replaced by a different amino acid residue. Preferably, the serine residue is one of S28, S36 or S54 and preferably, it is replaced with an alanine residue (e.g. p66^{shc}S36A).

Both the nucleic acid molecules and the polypeptides

as disclosed herein may be used in a method of treatment and in particular may be used in the preparation of a medicament for increasing the cellular resistance to oxidative stress.

5 Therefore, the present invention also provides methods of increasing resistance in cells to oxidative stress. Such oxidative stress may be as a result of external, e.g. environmental, factors such as UV, X-rays heat shock, osmotic shock, oxidative stress (singlet
10 oxygen, H_2O_2 , hydroxylradicals, inflammatory cytokines). or it may be as a result of internal factors resulting in necrosis of cells as occurs in some disease states.

 A method of increasing resistance to oxidative stress may comprise disrupting a $p66^{shc}$ signalling
15 pathway. The pathway may be disrupted at any stage during the signalling process, for example, the $p66^{shc}$ polypeptide may be mutated such that the serine residue is absent or replaced by a different amino acid residue, e.g. alanine such that the resulting polypeptide cannot
20 be serine phosphorylated; the ability of molecules such as p38 or MAPK to phosphorylate $p66^{shc}$ may be disrupted by, for example, dominant negative kinases or specific inhibitors; and , most preferably, the expression of $p66^{shc}$ may be disrupted. Further, as p53 and p16 are not
25 biologically active in $p66^{-/-}$ cells, any dominant negative p66 molecules may be used to block p16 and p53 function.

 The disruption of $p66^{shc}$ gene expression may be obtained in various ways. Antisense oligonucleotide
30 sequences based on the $p66^{shc}$ sequence may be designed to hybridise to the complementary sequence of nucleic acid, pre-mRNA, or mature mRNA, interfering with the production of polypeptide encoded by a given DNA sequence (e.g. either native $p66^{shc}$ polypeptide or a mutant form
35 thereof), so that its expression is reduced or prevented

altogether. In addition to the p66^{shc} coding sequence, antisense techniques can be used to target the control sequences of the p66^{shc} gene, e.g. in the 5' flanking sequence of the p66^{shc} coding sequence, whereby the antisense oligonucleotides can interfere with the control sequences. The construction of antisense sequences and their use is described in Peyman and Ulman, Chemical Reviews, 90:543-584, (1990), Crooke, Ann. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxicol., 32:329-376, (1992), and Zamecnik and Stephenson, P.N.A.S., 75:280-284, (1974).

In a second aspect, the present invention provides a method of screening for compounds capable of modulating a p66^{shc} signalling pathway comprising contacting a candidate compound with a p66^{shc} expression system; determining the amount of a component of the signalling pathway; and comparing said amount of the component with the amount of the component in the absence of said candidate compound.

Preferably, the expression system comprises a nucleic acid vector having a p66^{shc} coding sequence or fragment thereof inserted therein. Suitable vectors can be chosen or constructed, containing appropriate regulatory sequences, including promoter sequences, termination fragments, polyadenylation sequences enhancer sequences, marker genes and other sequences as appropriate. For further details see, for example, Molecular cloning: A laboratory Manual: 2nd edition, Sambrook et al, 1989, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Procedures for introducing nucleic acid into cells depends on the host cell used, but are well known.

Thus the expression system may also comprises a host cell containing a p66^{shc} coding sequence or a vector as disclosed above. Most preferably, the expression system comprises a cell derived from a cell line, such as mouse embryo fibroblasts, known to express p66^{shc}.

The p66^{shc} signalling pathway may be modulated, e.g. disrupted, at any stage during the signalling pathway such that production of active p66^{shc} is prevented. Examples of such modulation may include directly preventing expression of p66^{shc} by blocking factors involved in the transcription of genes. For example, antisense primers may be used to bind to the p66^{shc} gene thereby preventing transcription factors binding to regulatory agents required for promoting transcription. Alternatively, the coding sequence for p66^{shc} may be targeted so as to introduce mutations which prevent the expression of p66^{shc} without disrupting expression of associated proteins such as P52^{shc} and p46^{shc}. Preferably, the mutation disrupts the exon encoding the p66 CH2 region. Antisense probes may also be used for binding DNA or mRNA encoding p66^{shc} such that its translation is prevented. Alternatively, antibodies specific for p66^{shc} (e.g. anti-CH2 antibodies) may be used to specifically bind to the expressed protein such that subsequent binding of p66^{shc} to other proteins, e.g. receptors, is prevented.

Further, inhibition of the p66 function can be obtained by inhibiting the phosphorylation of the p66 CH2 region induced by Erk 1 or p38 stress-kinases. To this end, library of compounds can be screened to identify those which are able to inhibit the in vitro phosphorylation of the GST-CH2 region by recombinant Erk1.

Thus, the present invention provides use of p66^{shc} for screening for molecules which affect or modulate its activity or function. Such molecules may be useful in a therapeutic (possibly including prophylactic) context.

It is well known that pharmaceutical research leading to the identification of a new drug may involve screening of very large numbers of candidate substances, both before and even after a lead compound has been

found. This is one factor which makes pharmaceutical research very expensive and time consuming. Means for assisting in the screening process can have considerable commercial importance and utility. Such means for
5 screening for substances potentially useful in increasing resistance to oxidative stress and thus extending cellular longevity, is provided by the present invention.

A method for screening for a substance which modulates (disrupts) activity of the p66^{shc} polypeptide
10 may include contacting one or more test substances with the polypeptide in a suitable reaction medium, testing the activity of the treated polypeptide and comparing that activity with the activity of the polypeptide in comparable reaction medium untreated with the test
15 substance or substances.

Combinatorial library technology provides an efficient way of testing a potentially large number of different substances for ability to disrupt or delete activity of p66^{shc}. Such libraries and their use are known
20 in the art. The use of peptide libraries is preferred.

Further, assays for determining p66 inhibitors may include usage of wildtype cells (both established cell lines or primary cells capable of expressing p66^{shc}, e.g. MEFs, p66-/- MEFs or MEFs overexpressing p66 (through the
25 usage of a p66^{shc} expressing vector).

Comparative responses to be determined may include response to stress factors, e.g. UV or H₂O₂; inhibition of RASV12 (or any other oncogene) -induced senescence in primary fibroblasts; inhibition of p53 or p19 or p16 or
30 p21 function (as measured by transcriptional assays, or stability assays, or nucleus-cytoplasmic export assays); or inhibition of p66 phosphorylation induced by RASV12 or by oxidative stress signals.

Following identification of a substance or compound
35 which disrupts p66^{shc} or a step in the p66^{shc} signalling

pathway, the substance or compound may be investigated further. Furthermore, it may be manufactured and/or used in the preparation, i.e manufacture or formulation, of a composition such as a medicament, pharmaceutical composition or drug. These may be administered to individuals.

The present invention also provides a method of increasing cellular resistance to oxidative stress comprising deleting or disrupting the gene encoding p66^{shc} from the cellular genome. Such a method may include processes such as gene therapy wherein a nucleic acid vector comprises a nucleic acid sequence capable of being incorporated into the genome of the cell and disrupting the expression of p66^{shc}.

The present invention further provides genetic markers for aging. Such markers may provided materials and methods for determining a predisposition to aging associated with certain disease states. As disclosed herein, heterozygous p66+/- mice have a slight, but evident, increase in longevity, thereby suggesting that slight variations in the expression levels of p66 may influence aging. This may provide for the determination of variations in the p66 RNA transcriptional regulatory sequences (e.g. the promoter) which affect the p66 transcription rate and longevity. Also, since the lifespan correlates with the functional activity of p66, there may be allelic variations in the p66 coding sequence that also correlate with different length of lifespan.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided methods of increasing resistance to tumour formation by increasing expression of P66^{shc}. The results disclosed herein indicate that increased levels of P66^{shc} reduce susceptibility to carcinogenesis. Therefore, the present invention further includes the use of P66^{shc}

(nucleic acid molecules or polypeptides as disclosed herein) for reducing susceptibility to cancers. Likewise, the present invention provides use of P66^{shc} in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and prevention of cancers.

P66^{shc} for such use, may be in the form of a polypeptide or may be in the form of a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a functional P66^{shc} polypeptide. The nucleic acid may be in the form of an expression vector which comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding part or all of P66^{shc} polypeptide. The expression vector may be used as part of a gene therapy application as disclosed herein. Further, in this aspect, agents may be used which increase the expression of P66^{shc} within the cell. Such agents may be further nucleic acid molecules or compounds such as transcription factors, which are capable of increasing the expression of P66^{shc} or compounds that increase the levels of p66 expression acting at post-transcriptional levels, such as at the level of stability of RNA or protein.

Aspects and embodiments of the invention will now be illustrated, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying figures. Further aspects of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art. All documents mentioned in this text are incorporated herein by reference.

Brief Description of the Drawings

In the figures

Figure 1 shows serine phosphorylation of p66^{shc} by UV or H₂O₂ treatment. **Figure 1A:** Modular organisation of p66^{shc}; Y: Y239, Y340 and Y317, the major Shc tyrosine phosphorylation sites. The alternative initiation codon (ATG) of p46^{shc} is indicated. **Figure 1B:** Anti-phosphotyrosine Western blotting of anti-p66 (α CH2)

immunoprecipitates from lysates of serum starved MEFs (SF) or Mouse Embryo Fibroblasts (MEFs) treated with EGF, UV or H₂O₂ for 5 min or 4 hrs, as indicated. The same blot was reprobed with anti-p66^{shc} antibodies (α -CH2). The p66^{shc} polypeptides are arrowed. Immunoglobulin cross-reactive polypeptides are also indicated (Ig). Figure 1C: Western blotting analysis of p66^{shc} expression of serum starved MEFs (SF) or MEFs treated with EGF, UV or H₂O₂ for 5 min or 4 hrs as indicated. The same blot was reprobed with anti-actin antibodies. Figure 1D: Phosphoaminoacid analysis of p66^{shc}. Serum-starved MEFs (SF) were labelled with 1mCi/ml [³²P] orthophosphate for 4 hr and unstimulated (SF) or cells stimulated with EGF, UV or H₂O₂ for 5 min or 4 hr were lysed and immunoprecipitates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose and autoradiographed (not shown). Phosphoaminoacid analysis was performed on the p66^{shc} polypeptide. Positions of the phosphoserine (S), phosphothreonine (T) and phosphotryosine (Y) markers are indicated.

Figure 2 shows p66^{shc} enhances stress oxidative response *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Figure 2A: Western blotting analysis of Shc expression in p66^{shc}+/+ or p66^{shc}-/- MEFs (left panel) and in p66^{shc}-/- MEFs transduced with vector alone, p66^{shc} or p66^{shc}S36A cDNAs (right panel). Figure 2B: Viability of MEFs after H₂O₂ treatment. Equal numbers (1.2 x 10⁵) of the indicated MEF cells grown in 100mm dishes in triplicate were infected with the PINCO retrovirus or with PINCO retroviruses expressing p66^{shc} or p66^{shc}S36A, as indicated, kept for additional 48 hrs to allow gene expression of exogenous cDNAs and exposed to 400mM H₂O₂ for 24 hrs. Cell viability was determined by trypan blue exclusion. Results are expressed as a percentage of viable cells with respect to H₂O₂ untreated controls and represent the mean of three independent experiments. Expression of p66^{shc} or p66^{shc}S36A did not

significantly influence viability or growth rate of MEFs, as measured 48 hrs after viral infection (not shown).

Figure 3 shows mapping of p66^{shc} serine-phosphorylation sites. Figure 3A: Anti-CH2 western blots of lysates from MEFs transfected with vectors expressing the isolated CH2 region and then starved (SF) or treated with EGF or UV for 5 min or 4 hr, as indicated. The star indicates the shifted CH2 polypeptide. Figure 3B: The S36A or S54A mutations were introduced with the isolated CH2 region or the full-length p66^{shc}. The resulting cDNAs were HA-tagged, cloned with a pcDNA3 expression vector and transfected into MEFs. Cultures were treated as indicated and analysed by western blotting using anti-HA antibodies. Figure 3C: Phosphoaminoacid analysis of p66^{shc} and p66^{shc}S36A. MEFs were transfected with HA-p66^{shc} or HA p66^{shc}S36A expression vectors, kept in culture for 48 hrs labelled with 1mCi/ml [³²P] orthophosphate for 4 hr and treated with EGF or H₂O₂ for 5 min, as indicated, lysed and immunoprecipitated with anti-HA antibodies. Phosphoaminoacid analysis was performed on the HA-p66^{shc} or HA-p66^{shc}S36A polypeptides, as described in Fig. 1 legend.

Figure 4 shows cumulative survival (Kaplan and Meier) of p66^{shc}+/+ (dashed line), p66^{shc}+/- (dotted line) and p66^{shc}-/- (solid line) mice. Survival of the p66^{shc}-/- mice was 71.4%.

Figure 5 shows the p66 cDNA nucleotide sequence (the ATG initiation site is underlined) and, separated, the p66 amino acid sequence.

Figure 6 shows a 13kb genomic region containing all the Shc coding exons which was characterised by restriction enzyme mapping and nucleotide sequence of all exon-intron boundaries and 5' regulatory regions.

Figure 7 shows the construction of the targeting

vector pBSp66ShcKO.

Figure 8 shows the vector pBSp66ShcKO with a TK transcriptional unit cloned at its 3' end.

5 Detailed Description

Methods

1) Cell lines, reagents and plasmid construction

10 Mouse embryo fibroblasts (MEFs) were isolated from
12 to 14 day embryos derived from p66^{shc}-/- mice and
p66^{shc}+/+ mice and maintained in Earle's minimal essential
medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum. The S36A
and S54A mutations were generated by standard PCR
15 techniques. The p66^{shc}, p66^{shc}S36A, HA-CH2, HA-CH2S35A, HA-
CH2S54A, HA-p66^{shc}, HA-p66^{shc}-S35A and HA-p66^{shc}S54A were
cloned into the pCDNA3 or PINCO eukaryotic expression
vectors (Claudio P.P. et al Cancer Res. 54, 5556-5560
(1994); Grignani, F. et al Cancer Res. 1, 14-19 (1998)).
20 The antibodies used were: the anti-Shc polyclonal
antibody which recognises the SH2 domain of all three Shc
isoforms (Pelicci G. et al Cell 70, 93-104 (1992)); the
anti p66 polyclonal antibody which recognises the p66^{shc}
isoform (Migliaccio E. et al Embo J. 16, 706-716 (1997));
25 the anti-βactin polyclonal antibody, (Sigma Immuno
Chemicals); the anti-HA monoclonal antibody; the anti-
phosphotyrosine monoclonal antibody, (Santa Cruz
Biotechnology).

30 2) Metabolic labeling immunoprecipitation, Western blotting and phosphoaminoacid analysis.

For whole lysates, cells were directly lysed in SDS
sample buffer (50mM Tris-HCL pH 6.8, 2% SDS v/v, 10%
glycerol and 5% v/v β-mercaptoethanol) and boiled for 5

min. 50µg of total protein was analysed by SDS-PAGE. For immunoprecipitation, cells were lysed on ice in PY buffer (20mM Tris-HCL ph 7.8, 50mM NaCl, 30mM Na₄P₂O₇, 5mM sodium orthovanadate, 1% v/v Triton x-100 containing freshly added protease inhibitors: 1mM phenylmethyl sulfonyl fluoride, 10µgml⁻¹ leupeptin and 5 mg ml⁻¹ aprotinin), appropriate antibodies were adsorbed on Protein A Sepharose (Pharmacia) and then incubated with cell lysates for 2hr at 4°C. Immunoprecipitates were recovered, resolved by 10% SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose filters, as described elsewhere (Migliaccio E. et al Embo J. 16, 706-716 (1997)). Blots were blocked, probed with specific antibodies and immune complexes revealed by horseradish-peroxidase conjugated with specific secondary antiserum (Biorad) followed by enhanced chemiluminescence. For phosphoaminoacid analysis, cells were grown to confluence on 10 cm plates, starved in serum-free medium and labelled for 4h in 5 ml phosphate free DMEM containing 5% dialyzed FBS and 1mCi ml⁻¹ ³²P-orthophosphate. Cells were stimulated with 30ng ml⁻¹ EGF or 400µM H₂O₂, or irradiated with 50 J/m² UV, rinsed twice with ice cold PBS and lysed in PY buffer. p66^{shc} proteins were isolated by immunoprecipitation with anti-SHC or anti-HA antibodies and resolved by SDS-PAGE. p66^{shc} polypeptides were transferred to PVDF membranes and hydrolyzed in 6M HCl for 60 min at 110°C. The hydrolysis products were separated in the presence of phosphoserine, phosphothreonine and phosphotyrosine markers by SDS-PAGE at pH1.9 and pH3.5 in two dimensions on TLC plates.

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3) Transfections, infections and cellular viability test.

MEFs were transfected with the LipofectaMINE PLUS Reagent GibcoBRL (average transfection efficiency 50%). For retroviral infections, the empty PINCO vector and recombinant PINCO vectors expressing p66^{shc} or p66^{shc}S36A

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cDNAs were transfected into the phoenix amphotropic packaging cell line and, after 48 hrs, supernatants were used to infect MEFs cells (1.2×10^5 cells/100mm dish). The efficiency of infection (GFP positive cells) was determined by FACS analysis 48 hr after infection. Viability was assessed by the trypan-blue dye exclusion test.

4) Statistical analysis

Survival functions were estimated by the Kaplan and Meier product limit method. Survival distributions were compared using the logrank test (Marubini E. et al New York, John Wiley & Sons (1995). All statistical calculations were performed using SAS/STAT Rel. 6.12 software (SAS Institute 1995).

5) Construction of p66^{shc} targeting vector and electroporation and selection of ES cells.

The targeting vector was constructed using standard cloning procedures. The plasmid was linearized with Kpn 1 before electroporation into ES cells. CJ7 ES cells were maintained on a monolayer of mitomycin C inactivated, neomycin-resistant primary embryonic fibroblast. A suspension of 15 million trypsinized ES cells in PBS was electroporated with 25 µg of DNA of the linearized targeting vector by using the Bio-Rad gene pulser II apparatus with 240 V and 500 µF. Cells were plated immediately after transfection and allowed to recover for 24 hr before selection in medium 350 µg/ml Geneticin and 2 µM of ganciclovir. Cells were fed daily and after 9 days the resulting colonies were picked and cultivated singularly until extraction and freezing.

6) Southern blot analysis of ES cells and Mice.

To identify the mutated Shc allele, genomic DNA from

ES cells and from the mouse tails was prepared by proteinase K lysis and phenol-chloroform extraction, digested with Eco RI and analyzed by Southern blot analysis. A 1.1.Kb Eco RI-Xba I fragment was used as external probe to discriminate between the WT 8 kb and the recombinant 3.5 kb allele bands (Fig 2).

7) Generation of mice carrying the disrupted p66 Shc allele.

Two different clones of targeted ES were used to generate chimeric mice. C57BL/6J blastocysts injected with 10-15 ES cells were transferred to pseudopregnant female mice. Chimeric mice, identifiable by agouti coat color, were mated with C57BL/6J mice. Offspring with agouti coat color were tested for the presence of the recombined allele by means of Southern blot analysis. Heterozygotes obtained from the crosses of the chimeras with 129Sv female mice were interbred to establish the colony of p66 -/- mice in the 129 genetic background. The mice were housed at a constant room temperature (22°C) and humidity (60%) with a 12 h light/dark cycle, with free access to standard mouse chow and tap water.

Results

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1) Construction of the p66shc targeting vector.

The present inventors have mutated the mouse Shc locus using conventional embryonic stem cell technology. The genomic Shc locus was isolated from a 129 mouse genomic library. A 13 Kb genomic region containing all the Shc coding exons was characterized by restriction enzyme mapping and nucleotide sequence of all exon-intron boundaries and 5' regulatory regions (Fig. 6). A positive/negative (G418/Ganciclovir) selection strategy was applied to introduce a mutation in the region of

first coding exon that contains the p66 ATG. To construct the targeting vector (pBSp66ShcKO; Fig 7) we used the EcoR1 8 KB fragment containing exons 1-8 (Fig.7). The Bal 1 fragment containing the p66 specific start site (Fig.7) was substituted with the Neo transcriptional unit driven by the pY promoter. The resulting vectors contains 2,2 and 4,6 Kb flanking sequences at the 5' and 3' ends, respectively (Fig. 7). A TK transcriptional unit was cloned at its 3' end (Fig.3).

2) ES tranfection and selection.

CJ7 ES cells, provided by Dr, Vera Soares (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY, USA) were transfected by electroporation, and resistant colonies were selected and screened for the deletion of the p66 first coding sequence by Southern blotting. The screening strategy was based on the EcoR1 site introduced in the targeted allele by the insertion of the Neo transcriptional unit (Fig.7) 24 ES clones of 150 analyzed showed one targeted Shc allele. Cytogenetic analysis of 9 ES clones revealed a normal modal number of chromosomes.

3) Generation of targeted mice.

Two ES clones were injected into C57BL/6J blastocysts, according to established procedures. Breeding of heterozygous (p66^{sch}+/-) yielded the expected frequency of homozygous animals. Analysis of the genotype of the animals was performed by Southern blotting of DNA extracted from the tails and confirmed by Western blotting of p66^{sch} expression in various tissues.

4) p66 is phosphorylated on Ser36 after H₂O₂ or UV stimulation.

Since Fos is transcriptionally activated by a variety of environmental stresses (hydrogen peroxide: H_2O_2 ; ultraviolet irradiation: UV), the present inventors have analysed the modifications of p66 upon H_2O_2 or UV stimulation of mouse and human fibroblasts. Results revealed that p66 is markedly phosphorylated on serine upon H_2O_2 /UV irradiation. Further, the present inventors mapped the major serine phosphorylation site to Ser 36. A Ser-Ala 36 p66 mutant is not phosphorylated by UV/ H_2O_2 in vivo.

5) Erk1 and p38 mediates UV/ H_2O_2 phosphorylation of p66

By using purified enzymes in *in vitro* kinase assays and either dominant negative kinases or specific inhibitors *in vivo*, the present inventors have demonstrated that p66 is phosphorylated by p38 and Erk1 upon UV or H_2O_2 stimulation.

Erk 1 (also known as MAPK), JNK and p38 are stress-induced kinases. To identify the kinase(s) responsible for the phosphorylation of p66 induced by oxidative stress *in vivo*, the present inventors analysed the extent of p66 phosphorylation after stress signals in MEFs expressing a JNK dominant negative kinase or in cells treated with various MAPK and p38 specific inhibitors [PD98059, which prevents activation of Erk 1 by Raf; SB203580 which specifically inhibits the p38 Map kinases]. Results showed that SB203580 and PD98059, but not the JNK dominant negative kinase, prevented p66 phosphorylation by oxidative stress signals (H_2O_2), indicating that p66 is phosphorylated *in vivo* by Erk1 and p38, but not by JNK.

The present inventors then reconstructed the p66 phosphorylation *in vitro* by using recombinant Erk1 or JNK and the bacterially expressed p66 CH2 region (CH2 was expressed in bacteria as GST-fusion protein). Erk1, but not JNK, was unable to *in vitro* phosphorylate the p66 CH2

region. Phosphorylation was specific, as shown by the finding that, in the same assay, Erk1 was unable to phosphorylate the p66 CH2 region when the S36A mutation was introduced.

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6) p66 modulates the oxidative stress response in vitro

H₂O₂ treatment induces fibroblast cell death. The present inventors have demonstrated that: i) overexpression of p66 in wild-type MEFs increases cell death induced by H₂O₂; ii) p66^{-/-} MEFs are more resistant to H₂O₂-induced cell death than wild-type controls *in vivo*. Paraquat is a pesticide that kills mice by inducing oxidative damage. The present inventors have further demonstrated that p66^{-/-} mice are more resistant to paraquat treatment than littermates.

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7) p66 regulates the p16, p53 and p21 response

Since environmental stresses activates the p16 - p53-p21 signalling pathways, the present inventors have further investigated whether p66 interferes with p16-p53-p21 activation by H₂O₂. Results revealed that p16, p53 and p21 activation are lost in p66^{-/-} cell upon H₂O₂ treatment.

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8) p66 is a tumour supressor

In vitro, the stimulatory effect of p66 on the p53-p21 pathway suggests that it might play a role in the cellular response on oncogenic stimuli. Therefore, the present inventors have evaluated the effects of p66 on the response of primary fibroblasts on the oncogenic RASV12 mutant. RASV12 induces senescence of wild-type MEFs, as a consequence of p53-p21 activation. Expression of RASV12 into p66^{-/-} MEFs induced cellular transformation. *In vivo*, p66^{-/-} mice are more susceptible

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to chemical-induced carcinogenesis than littermates. Furthermore, the present inventors have demonstrated that p53 and p16 are unable to induce senescence of mouse p66-/- fibroblasts.

9) p66 mediates aging

The results presented herein demonstrate that p66 is involved in the cellular response to stresses (environmental and oncogenic). The present inventors therefore considered whether p66 is also involved in mediating aging. To do this, they evaluated the survival of p66-/- mice. Of the many mice that were born in August 1996, 14+/, 8+/- and 15-/- were not sacrificed and kept for survival analysis. Evaluation after 28 months (December 1998) revealed

+/+	0/14 survivors	0%
+/-	3/8 survivors	37%
-/-	11/15 survivors	73%

Discussion

To investigate its role in the cellular stress response, the present inventors analysed the extent of p66^{shc} tyrosine-phosphorylation in mouse embryo fibroblasts (MEFs) treated with UV or H₂O₂, as compared to the effects of treatment with growth factors, such as the epidermal-growth factor (EGF). Anti-p66 immunoprecipitates from lysates of untreated and EGF-, UV-, or H₂O₂-stimulated fibroblasts were immunoblotted with anti-phosphotyrosine antibodies. EGF stimulation induced a marked increase in the phosphotyrosine content of p66^{shc}, which was maximal after 5 min. Neither UV nor H₂O₂ treatment induced significant tyrosinephosphorylation of p66^{shc} (Fig.1B). However, Western blotting of the same lysates with anti-Shc antibodies revealed a marked gel

retardation of the p66^{shc} polypeptides after 5 min and 4 hours treatment with UV or H₂O₂, consistent with other post-translational modifications of p66^{shc} induced by these agents (Fig.1C). Therefore, p66^{shc} phosphorylation was analyzed by phosphoaminoacid analysis (Fig.2C). p66^{shc} polypeptides from serum-starved cells were phosphorylated primarily on serine. UV (Fig.2C) and H₂O₂ (not shown) induced a marked increase in the level of phosphoserine and had no effect on phosphotyrosine. In contrast, EGF induced a marked increase in the level of phosphotyrosine and a modest increase in phosphoserine (Fig.2C). It appears, therefore, that p66^{shc} is involved in the intracellular transduction pathways of both environmental stresses and growth factors, albeit with distinct functions, since UV and H₂O₂ induced rapid and persistent serine-phosphorylation, while EGF induced rapid and transient tyrosine-phosphorylation.

To investigate the functional role of p66^{shc} in the stress oxidative response, the present inventors next analysed the effects of p66^{shc} overexpression or p66^{shc} ablation on the cellular response of MEFs to H₂O₂. MEFs were derived from mice carrying a targeted mutation of the Shc locus that disrupted the exon encoding the p66 CH2 region, without affecting the p52^{shc}/p46^{shc} coding sequences (M. Gioglio et al : submitted for publication). p66^{shc}+/+ MEFs from wild-type mice with otherwise identical genetic background were used for comparison. As expected, expression of p66^{shc} was normal in p66^{shc}+/+ MEFs while was undetectable in p66^{shc}-/- MEFs; expression p52^{shc}/p46^{shc} was identical in p66^{shc}+/+ and p66^{shc}-/- MEFs. p66^{shc}+/+ MEFs were susceptible to H₂O₂ treatment, with more than 70% of cells being killed after 24 hours exposure to 400 μ M H₂O₂. Overexpression of p66^{shc} rendered p66^{shc}+/+ more susceptible to H₂O₂ treatment (approximately 85-90% cell death after 24 hours). In contrast, p66^{shc}-/-

MEF cells were more resistant to killing by the same dose of H_2O_2 and more than 70% of these cells survived after 24 hours of H_2O_2 treatment (Fig.2B). Expression of the $p66^{shc}$ cDNA into $p66^{shc-/-}$ cells restored a normal response to H_2O_2 (Fig.2B).

The present inventors then examined the ability of $p66^{shc-/-}$ mice to resist oxidative stress *in vivo*. To this end, mice were treated with paraquat, which, upon intake by the cell, generates superoxide anion. At a dosage of 70mg/kg, 5 of 5 $p66^{shc+/+}$ mice died within 48 hours after paraquat administration. In contrast, out of 5 $p66^{shc-/-}$ treated mice, two died within the first 48 hours, two after approximately 72 hours and 1 survived for several weeks (Fig.2C). Together, these results point to a function of $p66^{shc}$ in the cellular stress oxidative response.

To investigate whether $p66^{shc}$ participates in the cellular stress response as a cytoplasmic transducer of stress signals, The present inventors analysed the potential of a serine-phosphorylation defective mutant of $p66^{shc}$ to rescue the impaired stress oxidative response of $p66^{shc-/-}$ MEFs. The $p66^{shc}$ CH2 region probably contains the $p66^{shc}$ major serine-phosphorylation site(s), as suggested by the gel-mobility shift induced by H_2O_2 and EGF, when the CH2 was expressed in cultured cells as isolated domain (Fig.3A). The CH2 region contains three serine residues with a consensus sequence for serine/threonine kinase phosphorylation (S28, S36 and S54) (Davis, J. J. Biol. Chem. 268, 14553-14556 (1993)). Alanine substitution of S36 abrogated the gel-mobility shift of both isolated CH2 and full-length $p66^{shc}$ induced by H_2O_2 (Fig.3B). Phosphoaminoacid analysis of the $p66^{shc}$ and $p66^{shc}S36A$ polypeptides revealed a marked increase in the level of phosphoserine induced by H_2O_2 in the $p66^{shc}$, but not in the $p66^{shc}S36A$ mutant (Fig.3C), thereby confirming

that S36 is the p66^{shc} major serine phosphorylation site.

The present inventors then expressed the p66^{shc}S36A mutant into p66^{shc}-/- MEFs and evaluated its effect on the stress oxidative response. As shown in Fig. 2B, p66^{shc}S36A was unable to restore a normal response to H₂O₂. Instead, it conferred further resistance to H₂O₂-induced cell death, probably through a dominant negative effect on the stress response-signalling pathway. Together, these results indicate that p66^{shc} acts as a signal transducer in the cellular response to oxidative stress.

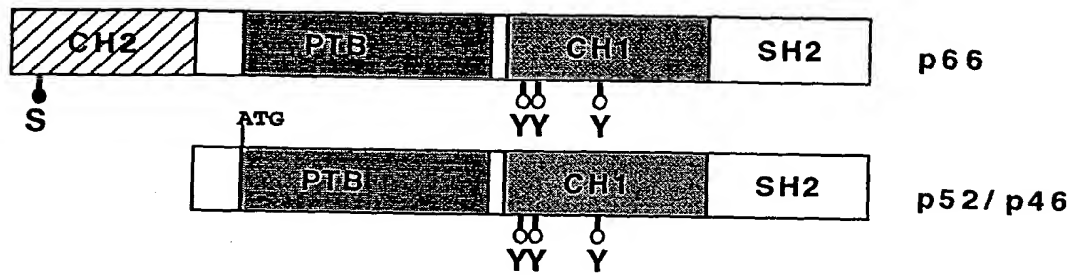
Enhanced resistance to environmental stress correlates with prolonged lifespan in invertebrates. In *S.Cerevisiae*, deletions of RAS1 (Sun, J. et al J. Biol. Chem. 269, 18638-18645 (1994); Kale, S. P. et al Dev. Genet. 18, 154-160 (1996)) or mutations in the SIR4 (Kennedy, B. K. et al Cell 80, 485-496 (1995)) locus increase lifespan and resistance to starvation, ethanol and heat shock or UV, respectively. In *C. elegans*, mutants of genes of the dauer signalling pathway, such as age-1 and daf-2, survive longer and are more resistant to oxygen radicals, heat and UV (Murakami, S. et al Genetics, 143, 1207-1218 (1985); Larsen, P. L. et al Genetics 139, 1576-1583 (1995)). In *D.melanogaster*, selection for late-life fitness is associated with greater resistance to environmental stresses (Service, P. M. et al Physiol, Zool. 58, 380-389 (1985); Service P.M. Physiol Zool. 60, 321-326 (1987); Arking R. et al Dev. Genet. 12 362-370 (1991)), and hypomorphic mutants of the *mth* locus live 35% longer and are more resistant to dietary paraquat and starvation (Lin, Y. J. et al Science 282, (1998). The present inventors, therefore, retrospectively analysed the effects of the p66^{shc} mutation on lifespan. 37 mice born on August 1996 from p66^{shc}+/-heterozygous parents were not sacrificed and maintained under identical conditions of stability. They

consisted of 14 p66^{shc}+/+, 8 p66^{shc}+/- and 15 p66^{shc}-/- mice. After 28 months of observation, all the wild-type animals had died (median survival of 25.37±0.63 months), while 3 of the 8 heterozygous (37%) and 11 of the 15 homozygous (73%) were still alive. The remaining 3 p66^{shc}+/- died after additional two months (median survival of 27.40±2.819). 3 p66^{shc}-/- mice also died after two months; the remaining 9 are still alive (lifespan more than 31 months). The comparison of survival curves obtained by the Kaplan and Meier method (Marubini, E. et al Valsecchi, M.G. New York, John Wiley & Sons (1995)) (Fig.4) showed a highly significant difference between the three groups (log-rank p=0.0002). Cumulative survival did not differ significantly between wild type and heterozygous (p=ns [0.057]). The cumulative survival in the p66^{shc}+/+ group was 71.4% (p<0.01 vs p66^{shc}+/- and p66^{shc}+/-). Therefore, it appears that homozygous mutation of p66^{shc} correlates with prolonged survival in mice.

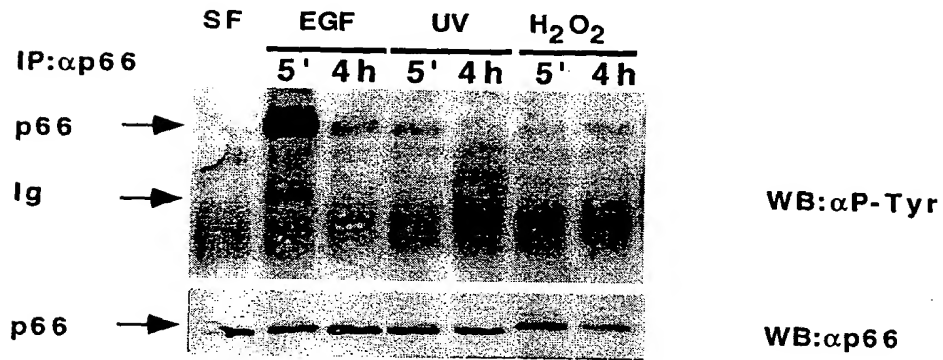
The results presented herein are consistent with a model in which lifespan is determined as a result of the increased ability to resist or repair environmental damage. p66^{shc} is part of a signal transduction pathway, which is activated by environmental stresses (H₂O₂ or UV) and whose mutation increases stress resistance and lifespan. Biochemical and genetic investigation of the p66^{shc} signalling pathway should lead to better understanding of mechanisms relevant to aging in mammals.

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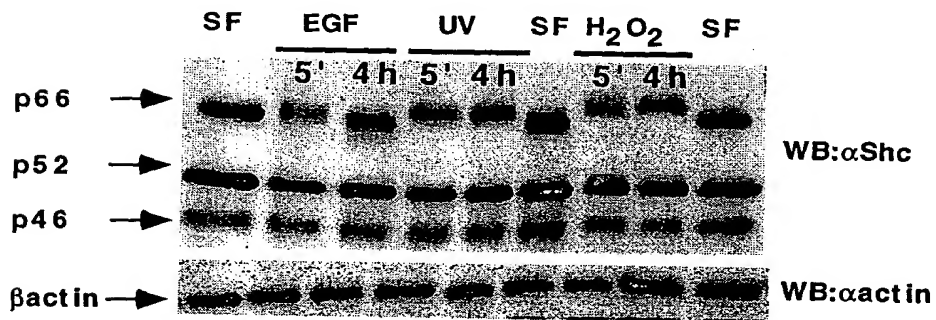
A



B



C



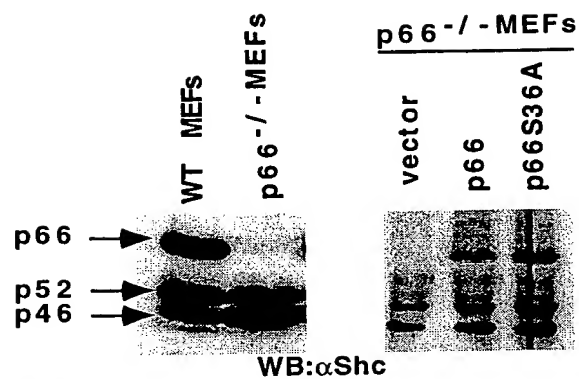
D



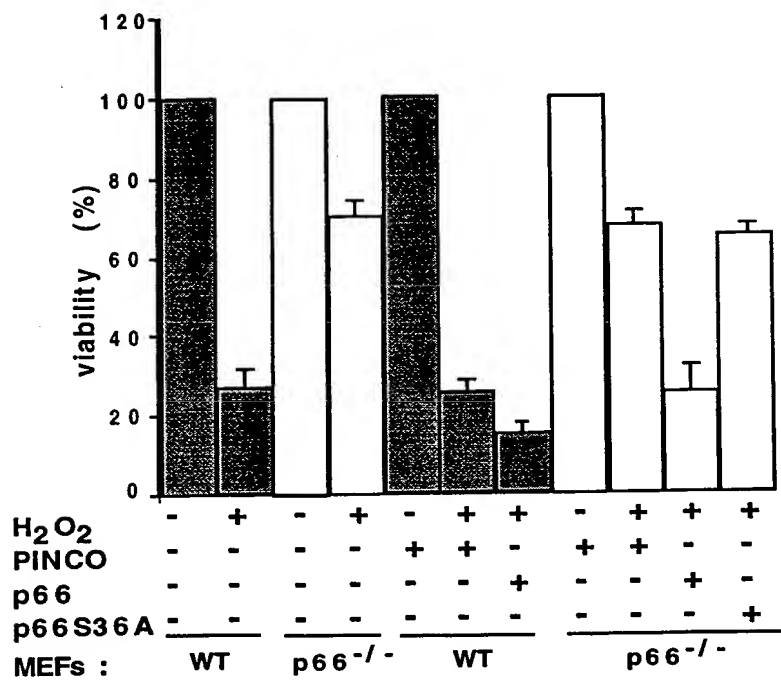
Fig. 1

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A



B



C

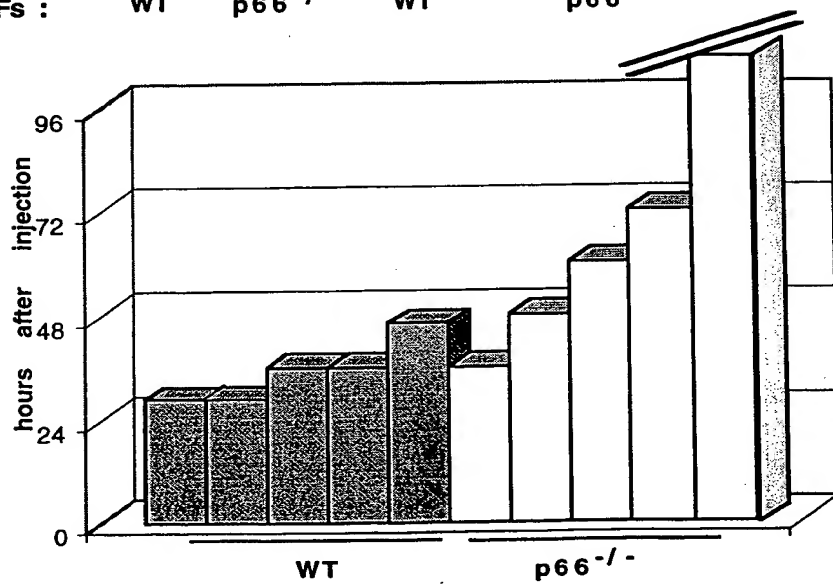


Fig. 2

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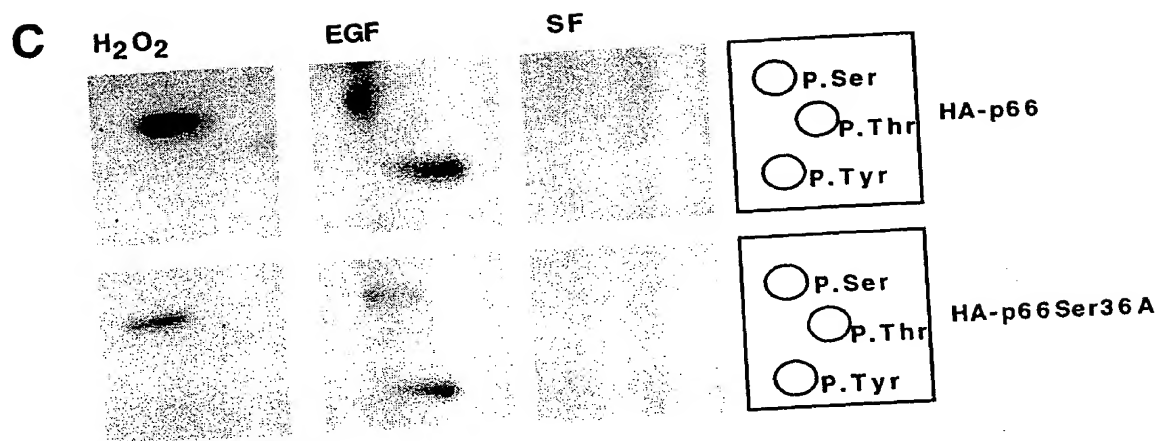
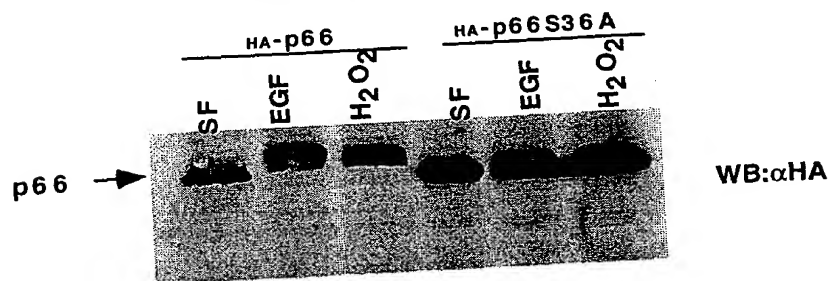
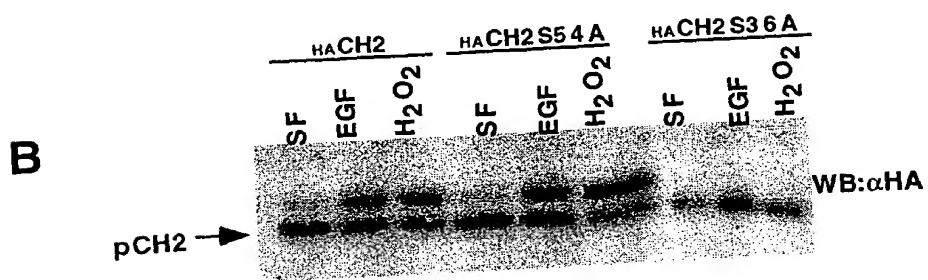
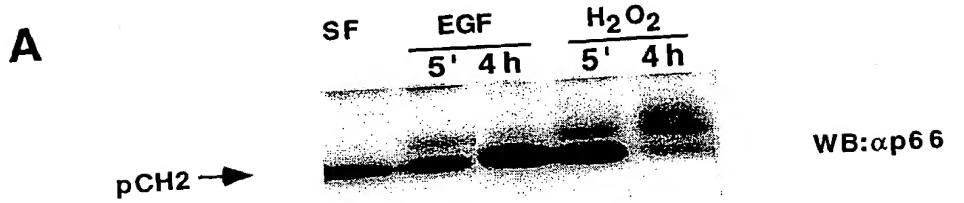


Fig. 3

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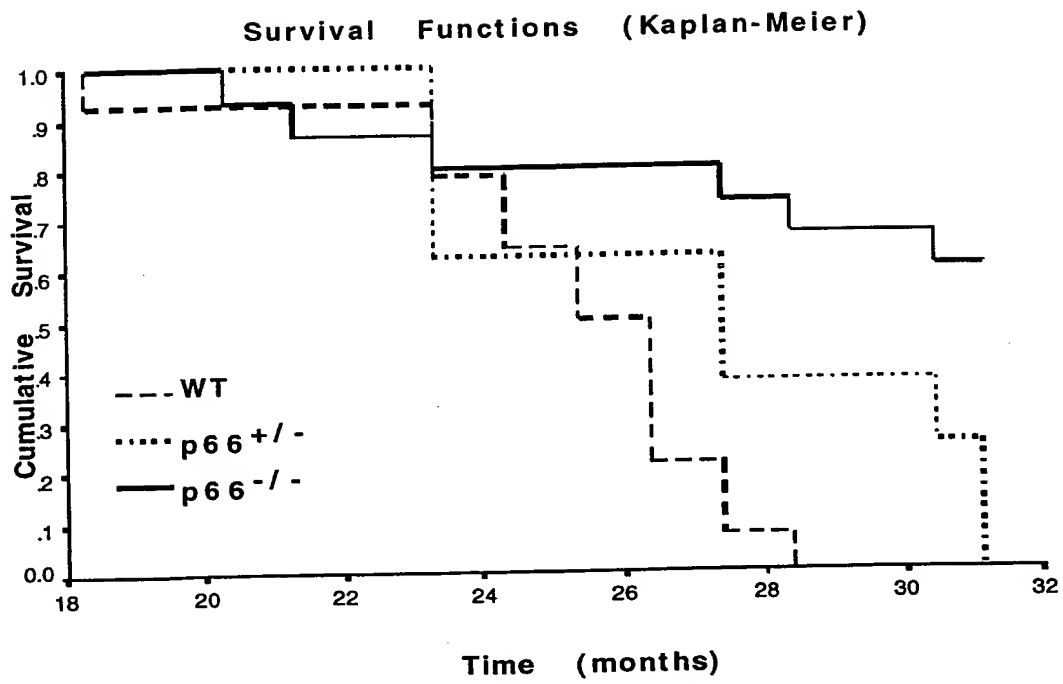


Fig. 4

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66 cDNA nucleotide

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70      80      90      100     110     120
ccccaggact tctgtgactc ctggggccaca gaggtccaac cagggtaagg gcctggggat

130     140     150     160     170     180
accccctgcc tggccccctt gccc aaactg gcaggggggc caggctgggc agcagcccct

190     200     210     220     230     240
ctttcacctc aactATGGAT CTCCTGCCCC CCAAGCCCAA GTACAATCCA CTCCGGAATG

250     260     270     280     290     300
AGTCTCTGTC ATCGCTGGAG GAAGGGGCTT CTGGGTCCAC CCCCCCGAG GAGCTGCCTT

310     320     330     340     350     360
CCCCATCAGC TTCATCCCTG GGGCCCATCC TGCCTCCTCT GCCTGGGGAC GATAGTCCCA

370     380     390     400     410     420
CTACCTCTGT CTCCTTCTTC CCCC GGATGA GCAACCTGAG GCTGGCCAAC CCGGCTGGGG

430     440     450     460     470     480
GGCGCCCAGG GTCTAAGGGG GAGCCAGGAA GGGCAGCTGA TGATGGGGAG GGGATCGATG

490     500     510     520     530     540
GGGCAGCCAT GCCAGAGTCA GGCCCCCTAC CCCTCCTCCA GGACATGAAC AAGCTGAGTG

550     560     570     580     590     600
GAGGCGGCGG GCGCAGGACT CGGGTGAAG GGGGCCAGCT TGGGGGCGAG GAGTGGACCC

610     620     630     640     650     660
GCCACGGGAG CTTTGTCAAT AAGCCCACGC GGGGCTGGCT GCATCCCAAC GACAAAGTCA

670     680     690     700     710     720
TGGGACCGCG GGTTCCTAC TTGGTTCGGT ACATGGGTTG TGTGGAGGTC CTCCAGTCAA

730     740     750     760     770     780
TGCGTGCCCT GGACTTCAAC ACCCGGACTC AGGTCACCAG GGAGGCCATC AGTCTGGTGT

790     800     810     820     830     840
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850     860     870     880     890     900
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910     920     930     940     950     960
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970     980     990     1000    1010    1020
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1030    1040    1050    1060    1070    1080
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1090    1100    1110    1120    1130    1140
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1210    1220    1230    1240    1250    1260
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1270    1280    1290    1300    1310    1320
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Fig. 5

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56 cDNA nucleotide

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1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560
CCCGGCAAGC	AGTGGGTGGT	GCTGGGCCCC	CCAATCCTGC	TATCAATGGC	AGTGCACCCC
1570	1580	1590	1600	1610	1620
GGGACCTGTT	TGACATGAAG	CCCTTCGAAG	ATGCTCTTCG	GGTGCCTCCA	CCTCCCCAGT
1630	1640	1650	1660	1670	1680
CGGTGTCCAT	GGCTGAGCAG	CTCCGAGGGG	AGCCCTGGTT	CCATGGGAAG	CTGAGCCGGC
1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740
GGGAGGCTGA	GGCACTGCTG	CAGCTCAATG	GGGACTTCCT	GGTACGGGAG	AGCACGACCA
1750	1760	1770	1780	1790	1800
CACCTGGCCA	GTATGTGCTC	ACTGGCTTGC	AGAGTGGGCA	GCCTAAGCAT	TTGCTACTGG
1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860
TGGACCCCTGA	GGGTGTGGTT	CGGACTAAGG	ATCACCGCTT	TGAAAGTGTC	AGTCACCTTA
1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920
TCAGCTACCA	CATGGACAAT	CACTTGCCCA	TCATCTCTGC	GGGCAGCGAA	CTGTGTCTAC
1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980
AGCAACCTGT	GGAGCGGAAA	CTGtgatctg	ccctagcgt	ctcttcaga	agatgcctc
1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
caatcctttc	caccctattc	cctaactctc	gggacctcgt	ttgggagtgt	tctgtgggct
2050	2060	2070	2080	2090	2100
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2110	2120	2130	2140	2150	2160
aggggtttgag	tcaaaagcct	gggtgagaat	cctgcctctc	cccaaacatt	aatcaccaaa
2170	2180	2190	2200	2210	2220
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2230	2240	2250	2260	2270	2280
ccccaagaag	gtgagtgtt	gtcatggaaa	atgtcctgtg	gtgacaggcc	cagtgggaaca
2290	2300	2310	2320	2330	2340
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2530	2540	2550	2560	2570	2580
ataacagagg	caggagtggc	agctgtcccc	tctccctggg	gatatgcaac	ccttagagat
2590	2600	2610	2620	2630	2640
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2650	2660	2670	2680	2690	2700
ctggccgggg	cccctcacc	caaggggtct	gtatatacat	ttcataaggc	ctgcccctcc
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pC cDNA nucleotide

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      2830      2840      2850      2860      2870      2880
actctcccag gtggattttg tggaggtgag aaaaggggca ttgagactat aaagcagtag
      2890      2900      2910      2920      2930      2940
acaatcccca cataccatct gtagagtgg aactgcattc ttttaaagtt ttatatgcat
      2950      2960      2970      2980      2990      3000
atatttttagg gctgctagac ttactttcct attttctttt ccattgctta ttcttgagca
      3010      3020      3030      3040      3050      3060
caaaatgata atcaattatt acatttatac atcacctttt tgacttttcc aagccctttt
      3070      3080      3090      3100      3110      3120
acagctcttg gcattttcct cgcctaggcc tgtgaggtaa ctgggatcgc accttttata
      3130      3140      3150      3160      3170      3180
ccagagacct gaggcagatg aaatttattt ccatctagga ctagaaaaac ttgggtctct
      3190      3200      3210      3220      3230      3240
taccgcgaga ctgagaggca gaagtcagcc cgaatgcctg tcagtttcat ggaggggaaa
      3250      3260      3270      3280      3290      3300
cgcaaaacct gcagttcctg agtaccttct acaggcccggtg cccagcctag gcccggggtg
      3310      3320      3330      3340      3350      3360
gccataccac agcaagccgg cccccctct tttggccttg tggataaggg agagttgacc
      3370      3380      3390      3400      3410      3420
gttttcatcc tggcctcctt ttgctgtttg gatgtttcca cgggtctcac ttataccaaa
      3430      3440      3450      3460      3470      3480
gggaaaactc tteattaaag tccgtatttc ttctaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaa aaatacattt
      3490      3500      3510      3520      3530      3540
atacatcacc tttttgactt ttccaagccc ttttacagct cttggcattt tcctcgccta
      3550      3560      3570      3580      3590      3600
ggcctgtgag gtaactggga tcgcaccttt tataccagag acctgaggca gatgaaattt
      3610      3620      3630      3640      3650      3660
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      3670      3680      3690      3700      3710      3720
agcc.....

```


p66 aa sequence

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10	20	30	40	50	60
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70	80	90	100	110	120
FFPRMSNLRL	ANPAGGRPGS	KGEPGRAADD	GEGIDGAAMP	ESGPLPLLQD	MNKLSGGGGR
130	140	150	160	170	180
RTRVEGGQLG	GEEWTRHGSF	VNKPTRGWLH	PNDKVMGPGV	SYLVRYMGCV	EVLQSMRALD
190	200	210	220	230	240
FNTRTQVTRE	AISLVCEAVP	GAKGATRRRK	PCSRPLSSIL	GRSNLKFAGM	PITLTVSTSS
250	260	270	280	290	300
LNLMADCKQ	IIANHHMQSI	SFASGGDPDT	AEYVAYVAKD	PVNQRACHIL	ECPEGLAQDV
310	320	330	340	350	360
ISTIGQAFEL	RFKQYLRNPP	KLVTPHDRMA	GFDGSAWDEE	EEEEPPDHQYY	NDFPGKEPPL
370	380	390	400	410	420
GGVVDMLRLRE	GAAPGAARPT	APNAQTPSHL	GATLPVGQPV	GGDPEVRKQM	PPPPPCPGRE
430	440	450	460	470	480
LFDDPSYVNV	QNLDKARQAV	GGAGPPNPAI	NGSAPRDLFD	MKPFEDALRV	PPPPQSVSMA
490	500	510	520	530	540
EQLRGEFWFH	GKLSRREAFA	LLQLNGDFLV	RESTITTPGQY	VLTGLQSGQP	KHLLLVDPEG
550	560	570	580		
VVRTKDHRFE	SVSHLISYHM	DNHLPIISAG	SELCLQQPVE	RKL*	

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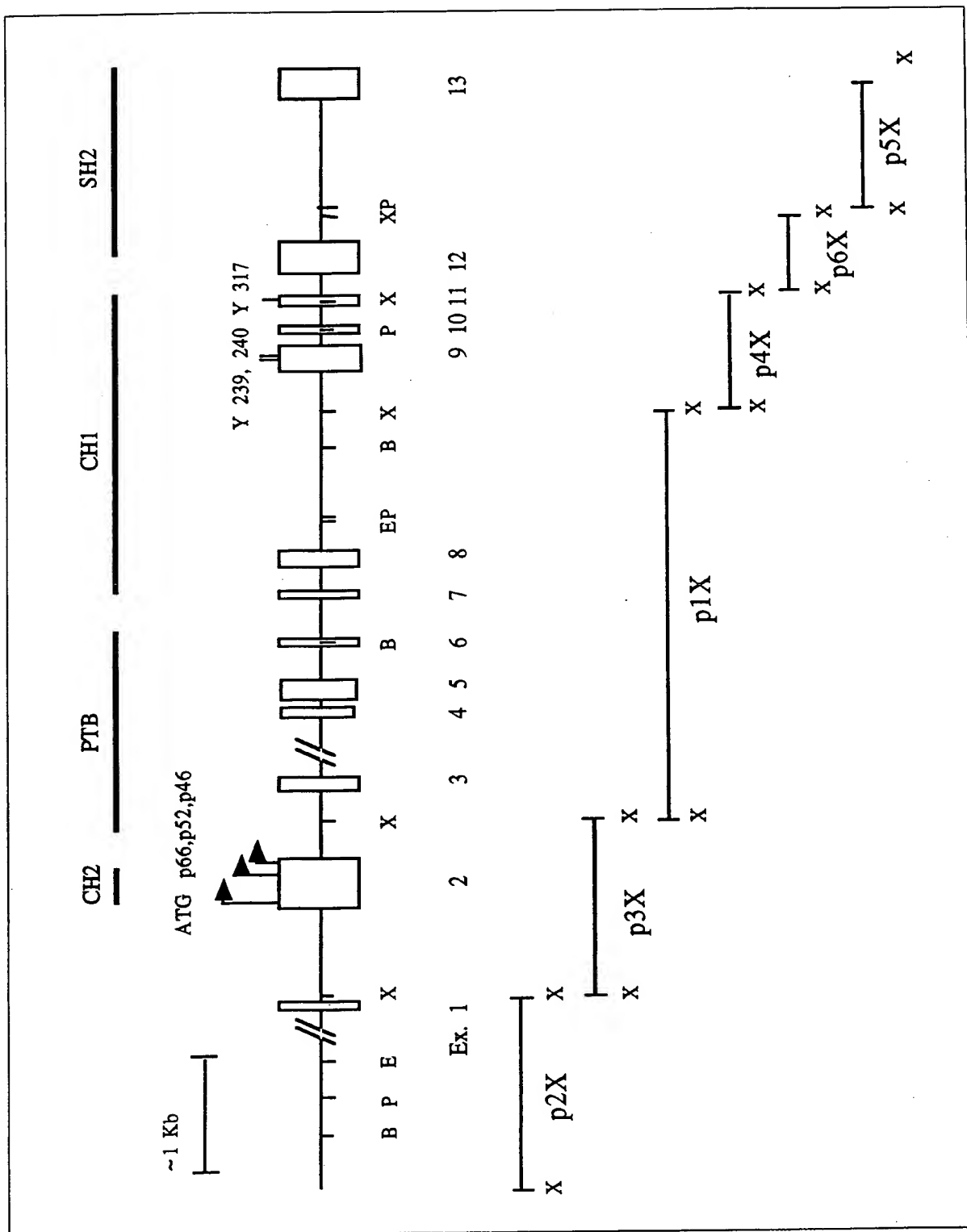


Fig. 6

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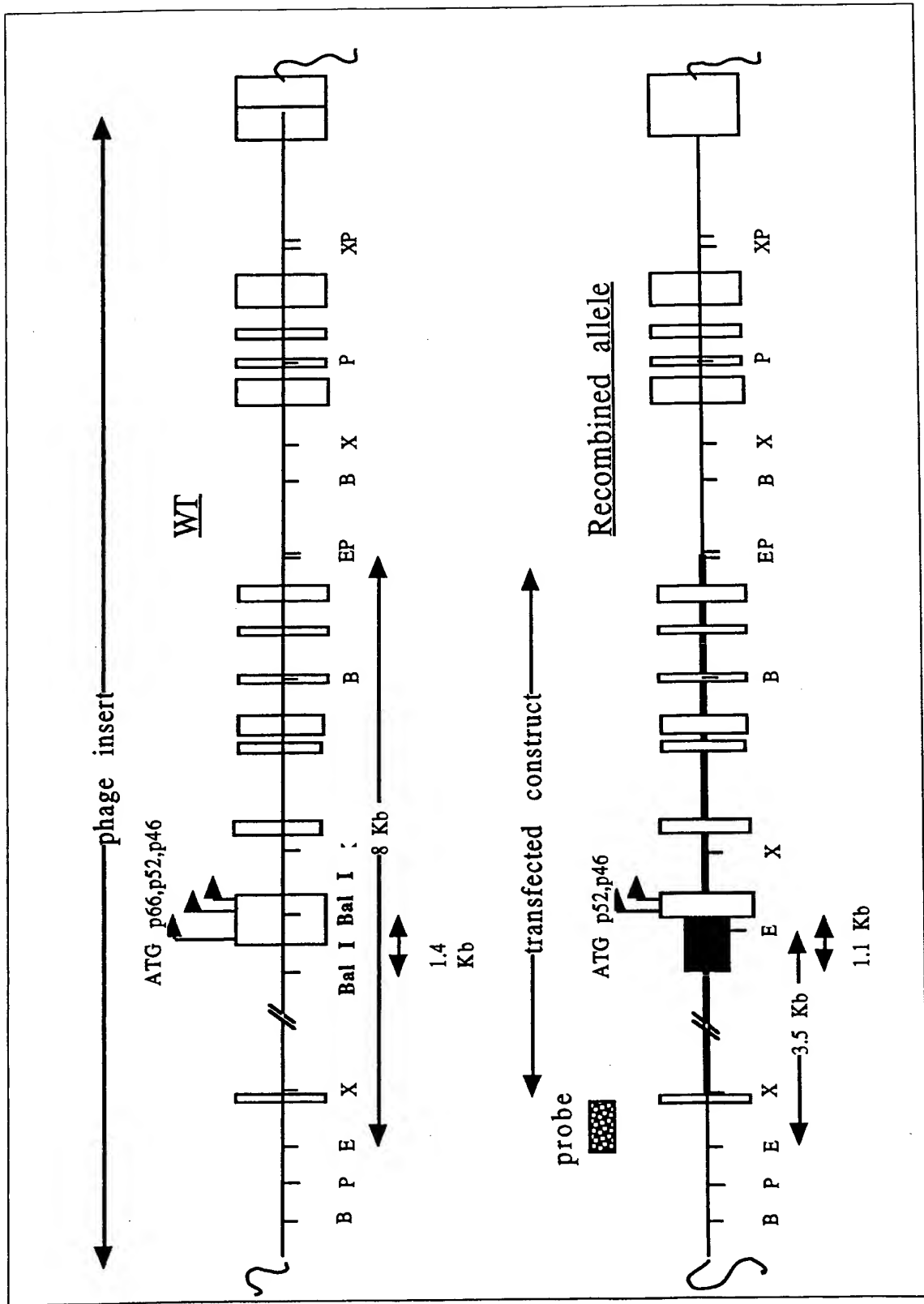


Fig. 7

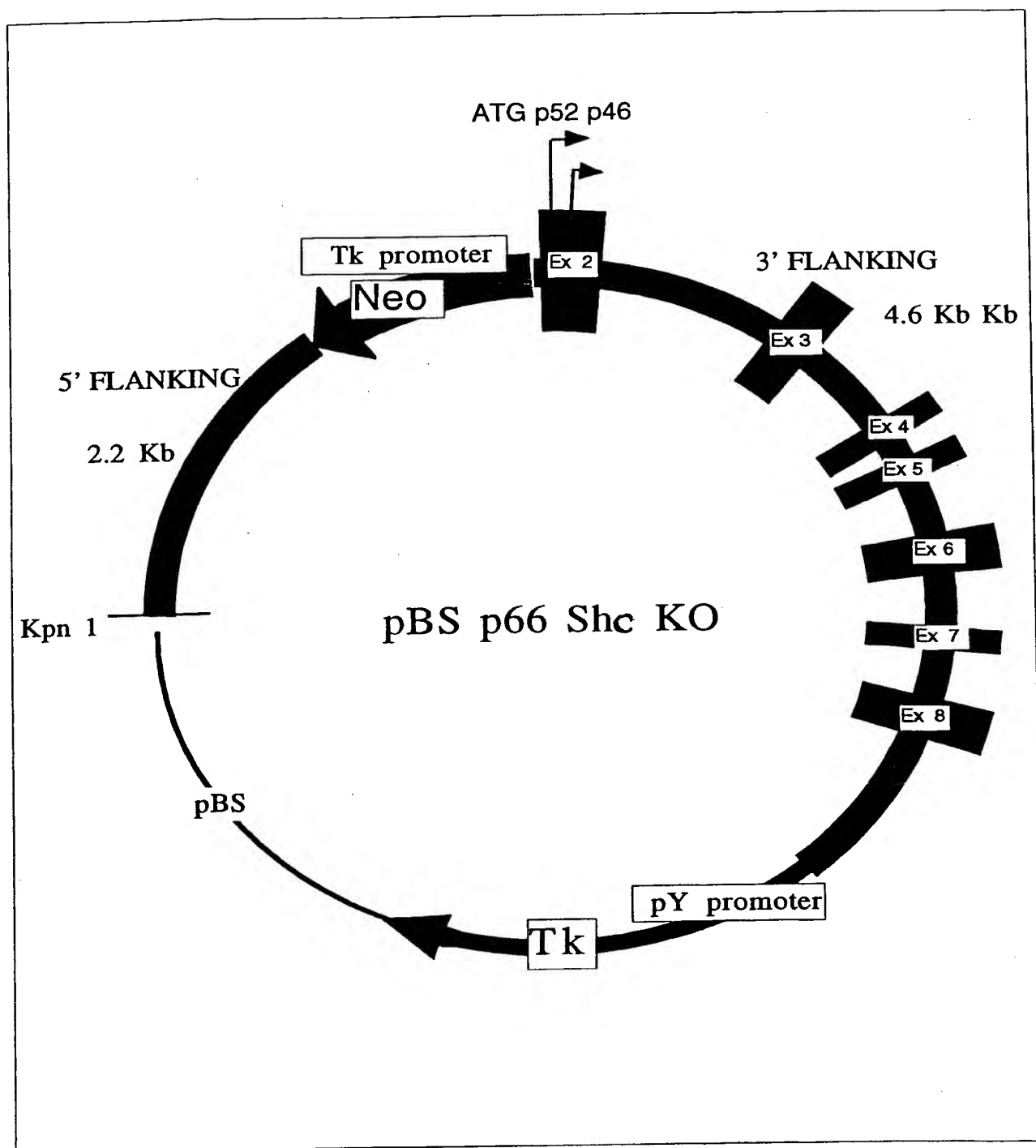


Fig. 8

LT NO. G800. 1079

form 23/77 : 22.3.00

Agent : Newburn Ellis